

**FAX TO ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT  
1 202 307 1454**

1928 Claremont Country Club Commons  
Normal, IL 61761  
January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

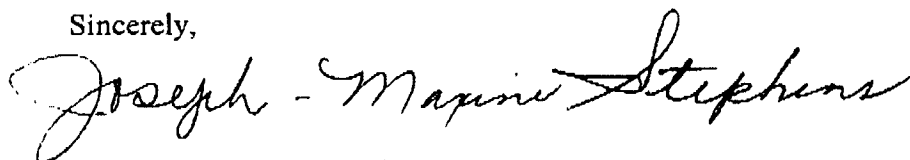
It is in the best interest of the American public to finalize the antitrust settlement with Microsoft as soon as possible. Although we are happy to see Microsoft will not be broken up, we maintain our belief that Microsoft is still receiving unwarranted treatment.

Under the terms of the concession, Microsoft has agreed to disclose internal interfaces, and increase its relations with software developers. All of these concessions have their positives and negatives. But, it seems to us when a company starts from nothing and is innovative to the point that it becomes the unprecedented leader of an industry, that company should be applauded, not criticized.

We urge your office to free up the IT sector and allow it to grow again at the rapid rate it did before litigation. Only by allowing Microsoft to focus on business – not politics – will the tech sector make a quick recovery. Thank you for your time.

We appreciate your consideration of our thoughts for the continuing growth of Microsoft for everyone's benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph - Maxine Stephens". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joseph and Maxine Stephens